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**VICE PRESIDENT HAILS PROGRESS IN URBAN REVITALIZATION AND
ANNOUNCES 20 NEW PROJECTS TO REDEVELOP BROWNFIELDS**

Washington, D.C. -- As part of an Administration commitment to help cities clean up and redevelop abandoned property, Vice President Al Gore today (6/13) announced the next series of brownfields grants to 20 American cities. In a ceremony at the White House attended by EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner and mayors from recipient cities, the Vice President called the initiative "one of the most significant efforts ever to revitalize American communities."

Brownfields are abandoned pieces of land -- usually in the inner cities -- that are lightly contaminated by previous industrial use but pose no serious public health risk to the community. Under the Brownfields Initiative, each community will receive up to \$200,000 over two years to develop its own community-based strategy, or pilot project, for cleaning up areas that have been unable to attract investors for commercial development.

"The Clinton Administration's Brownfields Initiative is good for the environment and good for the economy," said Vice President Gore. "This is a common sense, cost-effective way to restore our cities; creating jobs and returning abandoned urban areas to productive community use."

EPA Administrator Browner said, "Brownfields projects bring together community leaders, investors, lenders, developers and citizens to work together and develop their own plans to turn economically abandoned areas into environmentally safe, economically attractive areas."

"In communities with brownfields, this program can bring about the general economic revitalization of neighborhoods that otherwise could not have gotten back on their feet," Browner added. "Everyone wins."

The 20 new communities are: Burlington, VT; Charlotte, NC; Chicopee, MA; Chippewa County/Kinross Township, MI; Kansas City, KS and MO; Lima, OH; The Navajo Nation; Newark, NJ; Richmond, CA; Rome, NY; Atlanta, GA; Camden, NJ; Clearwater, FL; East St. Louis, IL; Miami, FL; Prichard, AL; Provo, UT; San Francisco, CA, and, Shreveport, LA.

The Administration has taken a series of actions to clean up and redevelop brownfields to return them to constructive community use.

EPA Administrator Browner launched the Brownfields Initiative in 1993 with a \$200,000 grant to Cuyahoga County in Cleveland, Ohio, for a pilot project to help state and local officials develop a national model for revitalizing these areas across the country. Using this seed money, Cleveland leveraged \$4.5 million for environmental cleanup and improvements to the property. Several new businesses have located on the site, over 180 new jobs have been created and payroll tax base improvement alone has netted over \$1 million for the local economy.

Administrator Browner committed to fund 50 pilot projects by June of 1996. Today's addition brings that total to 60 pilot communities.

In January 1995, the Administration removed legal obstacles to the development of brownfields by taking 27,000 sites off the Superfund inventory because they posed no public health threat to the community. Removing these sites from Superfund lists puts them back on track to restoration and cuts unnecessary red tape for potential developers.

In his State of the Union address in January 1996, President Clinton proposed expanding the brownfields program to provide targeted tax incentives to businesses that purchase and restore these sites. By combining tax incentives and grant money, and by removing barriers to the development of brownfields, the Clinton Administration is helping cities across America revitalize their communities and stimulate their local economy by creating jobs and returning urban areas to productive use.

The Brownfields Initiative also is an integral part of the Administration's overall Community Empowerment Agenda -- a series of initiatives by the federal government from Empowerment Zones to community policing -- designed to provide greater opportunity to distressed communities.

For further information about the Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative, visit EPA's homepage on the World Wide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf>. Information also can be obtained through the RARA/Superfund hotline at 1-800-424-9346 or 703-412-9810.

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THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Brownfields are abandoned pieces of land -- usually in inner city areas -- that have real or perceived contamination from previous industrial use. These sites do not qualify as Superfund toxic waste National Priority sites because they do not pose a serious public health risk to the community. Because of the stigma of contamination and legal barriers to redevelopment, businesses do not buy the land and sites remain roped off, unproductive and vacant. Developers resort to "green" areas outside the city, while the urban centers continue to deteriorate.

Beginning in November 1993, the Clinton Administration has taken a series of actions to clean up and redevelop brownfields to return them to productive use in these communities:

- ***Creating a national model:*** In November 1993, Administrator Browner launched the Brownfields initiative with a \$200,000 grant to Cleveland, Ohio for a pilot project with state and local officials to determine the best way to develop a national model for revitalizing these areas across the country.
- ***Providing seed money:*** In January 1995, the Administration committed to fund 50 additional Brownfields pilot projects up to \$200,000 each -- a pledge that has been met and exceeded with 60 such projects now underway. With the seed money, cities promote economic development the way the local community believes it will work best. The program brings together people who live near contaminated land, businesses that want to get land cleaned up, community leaders, investors, lenders and developers. Together, they seek ways to restore abandoned sites to new uses -- increasing property values, stimulating tax revenues, creating jobs and job training opportunities, and revitalizing inner-city neighborhoods.
- ***Removing the barriers to development:*** In January 1995, the Administration also removed the legal obstacles to development of brownfields sites by taking 27,000 sites off the Superfund inventory. The Superfund inventory is a list of contaminated sites that do not pose a serious public health risk. This differs from the National Priorities List (NPL) which lists Superfund sites that are contaminated with toxic waste and are public health risks. By taking these low-priority sites off the list, we relieve potential developers of unnecessary red tape, remove the stigma of contamination, and get the sites on track for redevelopment.
- ***Tax Incentive:*** In his State of the Union Address and at an event in New Jersey in February, President Clinton expanded the Brownfields program to provide targeted tax incentives to businesses that purchase and clean up these sites. The tax incentive broadens the effort, accelerates clean up and provides the financial means so that businesses will be able to expense the cost of cleaning up the properties over shorter period of time. This will provide a significant financial incentive to restore these areas, so that they can again produce jobs and increase the tax base in communities across the country.

**Clinton Administration Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative
Summary of Pilot Projects - June 1996**

NATIONAL PILOT PROJECTS

Burlington, Vermont - Mayor Peter Clavelle

With the help of its \$200,000 seed grant, Burlington plans to cleanup and redevelop 17 potential brownfields properties with the goal of establishing an agricultural/industrial eco-park.

Charlotte, North Carolina - Mayor Patrick McCrory

With the help of its \$200,000 seed grant, Charlotte will focus on 2 to 3 sites to begin its citywide redevelopment and will develop model -lending partnerships and risk/liability sharing Agreements.

Chicopee, Massachusetts - Mayor Joseph Chessey, Jr.

With the help of its \$59,000 seed grant Chicopee aims to cleanup and revitalize its downtown starting with an abandoned industrial site, using cost-effective methods and community involvement.

Chippewa County/Kinross Township, Michigan -

County Commission Chair Leno Pianosi, Township Supervisor Larry Palma

With the help of its \$200,000 seed grant, this county/township joint project will cleanup Kincheloe Air Force Base; closed in 1977, encouraging business redevelopment of this 3,850-acre brownfield.

Greater Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri-

Mayor Carol Marinovich and Mayor Reverend Emanuel Cleaver II

With the help of its \$200,000 seed grant, Greater Kansas City will cleanup and revitalize railroad corridor as an intermodal transportation and distribution hub for both cities.

Lima, Ohio - Mayor David Berger

With the help of its \$200,000 grant, Lima will cleanup and redevelop a 200-acre industrial park to create new job opportunities and a new public riverwalk along the Ottawa River

Lowell, Massachusetts - Mayor Edward "Bud" Caulfield

With the help of its \$200,000 seed grant, Lowell will assess two brownfields near a new stadium and develop funding strategies for a long-term approach to citywide redevelopment.-,

The Navajo Nation, Arizona - President Albert Hale

With the help of its \$200,000 seed grant, the Navaho Nation will cleanup and revitalize the Navajo Forest Product Industries mill site, assess health risks to residents, and educate the community.

Newark, New Jersey - Mayor Sharpe James

With the help of its \$200,000 seed grant, Newark -- a city with some 700 brownfields acres -- will use innovative technology to revitalize four sites and their surrounding neighborhoods.

Richmond, California - Mayor Rosemary M. Corbin

With the help of its \$200,000 seed grant, Richmond plans to cleanup and redevelop industrial sites near a 900-acre shoreline to include new businesses, public spaces and waterfront protection.

Rome, New York - Mayor Joseph Griffo

With the- help of its \$200,000 seed grant, Rome plans to cleanup and redevelop a 17-acre site near the city's central business district as the first step in creating a 200-acre light industrial park.

REGIONAL PILOT PROJECTS

Atlanta, Georgia - Mayor Bill Campbell

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant, Atlanta will focus on 46 brownfields in its Empowerment Zone, working with community residents and businesses to encourage cleanup and revitalization.

Camden, New Jersey - Mayor Arnold W. Webster

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant, Camden aims to encourage revitalization of the city's many brownfields, which make up half of all industrial properties in the city, and to reduce health risks.

Clearwater, Florida - Mayor Rita Garvey

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant, Clearwater will focus on a concentrated area of brownfields to boost economic redevelopment, reduce crime, and resolve local water quality problems.

East St Louis, Illinois - Mayor Gordon Bush

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant, East St. Louis will develop a secondary material manufacturing district on the former Alcoa Aluminum site, a 220-acre brownfields area.

Miami, Florida - Acting Mayor Wilfredo "Willy" Gort

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant Miami will focus on cleanup of brownfields in its Wynwood neighborhood, involving local residents in redevelopment and revitalization plans.

Prichard, Alabama - Mayor Jesse M. Norwood

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant, Prichard aims to find productive uses for vacant and underused sites, using its Enterprise Zone status to identify cleanup and redevelopment incentives.

Provo City, Utah - Mayor George Stewart

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant, Provo City aims to cleanup and redevelop a former steel mill, its largest tract of undeveloped land, to provide low-income housing and green spaces.

San Francisco, California - Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant, San Francisco will revitalize the South Bayshore, a gateway for port activity, to reduce contamination risks and boost economic opportunity.

Shreveport, Louisiana - Mayor Robert W. "Bo" Williams

With the help of its \$100,000 seed grant, Shreveport aims to boost economic redevelopment in its urban core, with a focus on revitalizing some of its many vacant, underused former industrial sites.